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Reviews and Notes

Papers of Thomas Ruffin, Vol. II, Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission, collected and edited by J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON, Ph.D., Alumni Professor of History in the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, 1918, pp. 625.

The letters of this volume cover the period from 1831 to 1858. Judge Ruffin took an active part in southern politics and the letters here printed throw much light on the development of the political estrangement of the South, beginning with 1830. Far more interesting are the letters describing farm life in North Carolina. The elegant style, the typical southern sentiment and culture of the old time are shown as well in these letters, as I have seen. Besides being a lawyer by profession, chief justice of the State, he was a planter. He writes of his slaves absconding after quarreling with the overseer and later returning of their own accord. One slave wandered as far as London, east Kentucky. Judge Ruffin reveals in his letters, always calm and dignified, the gradually growing restlessness of the slaves, the irritation of the planters at the increasing interference from the North and the widening gap between North and South. Aside from the historical value these letters make most delightful reading.

Fighting the Spoilsmen; Reminiscences of the Civil Service Movement. —By WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE, LL.D., N.Y.G., P. Putnam's Sons, 1919, pp. 348, price \$2.00.

Mr. Foulke has been an active member of the National Civil Service Reform League almost from its organization at Newport in 1881. Under Roosevelt he became a member of the Civil Service Commission, resigning in the spring of 1903 on account of failing health. In *State and Nation* the author thus had about twenty years experience in the field of Civil Service Reform. The movement is treated historically,

covering the administrations of Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. Each of these Presidents, Mr. Foulke believes, was personally favorable to the reform, but all were not equally capable of evading or refusing the demands of the politicians for plunder. The volume is not an essay nor sermon on the merits of Civil Service Reform; the author assumes that the American people are convinced of the justice and value of the reform, but a historical record of the actual struggle, names, dates, places, facts, documents, and accusations are freely given. It is hardly necessary to say to those acquainted with the character and skill of Mr. Foulke that his work is done fearlessly and skillfully. Many reformers grow impatient with the slow-moving world and retire from the fight in disgust. Mr. Foulke is of a different temper. While carrying on a fight to the death he has preserved his good temper, which is shown, even in the record, by a tinge of humor. The characteristics of the spoilsmen are set forth in numerous cases. It may be objected that these cases are tried *ex parte* but in most cases we will forever have to do without the other side. The limits of the classified civil service as well as other problems incident, such as superannuation, are set forth. As a historical record of this political struggle in America this volume will take rank along with the writings of Carl Shurz, with decided advantage in concise and pointed treatment, in fact is so systematically presented as to make it especially useful in the schools.

Iowa Authors and Their Works. A Contribution Toward a Bibliography. By ALICE MARPLE, Assistant Curator. Introduction by EDGAR R. HARLAN, Curator, Des Moines, 1918, pp. 359.

The scheme of this bibliography is not clear. In the instructions to the author this rule is laid down: "Please disclose the existence of, and work done by any one fairly entitled to be regarded an author or writer of a book, and so connected with the State as to have been something within the meaning of the term 'An Iowa Author'". The rule of